

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 AID-05 EB-04 COME-00 ACDA-05 SCCT-01

TRSE-00 OPR-01 PC-01 /071 W
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R 220948Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7827

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E O 11652: N/A

TAGS: EIND, PINR, RP

SUBJ: WEYERHAEUSER FEARS OF PRESS COVERAGE

REF: A) MANILA 12012; B) MANILA 10153

1. WEYERHAEUSER OFFICIALS ARE GREATLY CONCERNED BECAUSE AP CORRESPONDENT ARNOLD ZEITLIN APPEARED AT THEIR MILBUK CONCESSION AREA OCTOBER 21 IN COMPANY OF A PRIEST WHO, WEYERHAEUSER SAYS, HAS BEEN EYEWITNESS TO MILITARY EXECUTION OF PRISONERS. ZEITLIN ARRIVED ON A PUMP BOAT FROM GENERAL SANTOS CITY, WHICH HE WAS VISITING IN COURSE OF COVERING APPARENTLY DETERIORATING (ACCORDING WEYERHAEUSER) SITUATION IN GENERAL SANTOS PROVINCE.

2. PRIEST, WHO IS RESIDENT IN AREA, WAS WATCHING IN BOAT OFFSHORE AS MARINES LANDED IN OPERATION DESCRIBED REFTEL A. PRIEST REPORTEDLY OBSERVED MARINES ROUNDING UP AND SHOOTING PRISONERS. PRIEST APPARENTLY HAS ALSO SEEN OR HAS EVIDENCE OF SUBSEQUENT EXECUTIONS OF INTERROGATED PRISONERS, FOR WEYERHAEUSER OFFICIAL STATED REPEATEDLY THAT IF
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PRIEST TELLS ZEITLIN ALL HE KNOWS, ZEITLIN REALLY

HAS A STORY. WEYERHAEUSER OFFICIALS STATE THAT PRIEST HAS JUST BEEN TO MANILA TO REPORT HAPPENINGS TO HIGHER MILITARY OFFICERS AND THAT PRIEST SEEMS MORE CONCERNED AT KILLINGS OF MUSLIMS THAN AT AMBUSHES OF CHRISTIANS BY MUSLIMS.

3. WEYERHAEUSER FEARS THAT BECAUSE THESE EVENTS HAVE OCCURRED IN PROXIMITY THEIR CONCESSION, WEYERHAEUSER WILL BE LINKED BY ZEITLIN TO KILLINGS AND WILL SUFFER ADVERSE PUBLICITY. EMBASSY REGARDS WEYERHAEUSER FEARS AS EXAGGERATED, AND AUGUST 22 ZEITLIN STORY MENTIONED REF B, WHICH WEYERHAEUSER REGARDS AS HORRIBLE EXAMPLE, IS REASONABLY ACCURATE FACTUAL ACCOUNT OF FIRST AMBUSH THAT DOES NOT REFLECT UNFAVORABLY ON WEYERHAEUSER.

4. OCTOBER 22 ZEITLIN RETURNED TO GENERAL SANTOS AND TELEPHONED MANILA AP OFFICE TO SAY HE HOLDING STORY UNTIL HE COULD CHECK IT WITH MILITARY SOURCES. HE HAS FIGURE OF 300 PRISONERS KILLED.

5. WEYERHAEUSER ITSELF STILL NOT BACK IN OPERATION. IT HAD HOPED RESUME NOVEMBER 1, BUT AMBUSH IN LAST DAY OR TWO OF MOTHER AND TWO DAUGHTERS OUT BERRY PICKING FROM NEARBY BARRIO HAS CAUSED INDEFINITE POSTPONEMENT OF NOVEMBER 1 START-UP.
SULLIVAN

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Message Attributes

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